I. Claim(s) 1-2 and 7-8 drawn to vaccine compositions comprising a *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* pilin protein.

II. Claim(s)1, 3-4, and 7-8 drawn to vaccine compositions comprising a *Neisseria meningitidis* class I pilin protein.

III. Claim(s)1, 3, 5 and 7-8 drawn to vaccine compositions comprising a *Neisseria meningitidis* class II pilin protein.

IV. Claim(s) 6 and 27 drawn to vaccine compositions comprising a chimeric protein of a *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* pilin protein and SEQ ID NO:2.

V. Claim(s) 9 drawn to a method of immunizing against *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* using a vaccine composition comprising a *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* pilin protein.

VI. Claim(s) 10 drawn to a method of immunizing against *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* using a vaccine composition comprising a *Neisseria meningitidis* class I pilin protein.

VII. Claim(s) 11 drawn to a method of immunizing against *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* using a vaccine composition comprising a chimeric protein of a *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* pilin protein and SEQ ID NO:2.

VIII. Claim(s) 12 drawn to a method of immunizing against *Neisseria meningitidis* using a vaccine composition comprising a *Neisseria meningitidis* class I pilin protein.

IX. Claim(s) 13 drawn to a method of immunizing against *Neisseria meningitidis* using a vaccine composition comprising a *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* pilin protein.

X. Claim(s) 14 drawn to a method of immunizing against *Neisseria meningitidis* using a vaccine composition comprising a chimeric protein of a *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* pilin protein and SEQ ID NO:2.

XI. Claim(s) 15 drawn to a method of preparing a vaccine comprising a *Neisseria* pilin protein.

XII. Claim(s) 16-26, drawn to DNA encoding a chimeric protein of a *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* pilin protein and SEQ ID NO:2, plasmids comprising said DNA, host cells comprising said plasmid, and a method of producing said protein by culturing said host cell.

XIII. Claim(s) 28 and 42 drawn to vaccine compositions comprising a chimeric protein of a *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* pilin protein and SEQ ID NO:4.

XIV. Claim(s) 29 drawn to a method of immunizing against *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* using a vaccine composition comprising a chimeric protein of a *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* pilin protein and SEQ ID NO:4.

XV. Claim(s) 30 drawn to a method of immunizing against *Neisseria meningitidis* using a vaccine composition comprising a chimeric protein of a *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* pilin protein and SEQ ID NO:4.

XVI. Claim(s) 31-41 drawn to DNA encoding a chimeric protein of a Neisseria gonorrhoeae pilin protein and SEQ ID NO:4, plasmids comprising said DNA, host cells comprising said plasmid, and a method of producing said protein by culturing said host cell.

In response to this Restriction Requirement, Applicant(s) hereby elect(s) Claims 1-2 and 7-8, of Group 1 for continued examination and prosecution on the merits, with traverse.

The requirement for restriction of 42 claims into 16 groups appears to be based a contention that the special technical feature linking the claims is present in the art. The Office cites Jonathan Rothbard et al., J. Exp. Med. 160:208-221 (1984) (Rothbard) for this contention. It is asserted "[t]herefore, Rothbard *et al* meets the limitations of claim 1" and allegedly no special technical feature exists. Applicants believe this contention is incorrect and request reconsideration.

Rothbard does not meet the limitations of claim 1. Claim 1 is directed to "*a vaccine composition comprising an isolated and purified recombinantly-expressed pilin protein of the genus Neisseria, wherein said vaccine composition elicits a protective immune response in a human host*". In contrast, Rothbard is directed to epitope mapping using synthetic peptides, where rabbits were immunized with either purified pili or cyanogens bromide fragments of the purified pili. These types of preparations of bacterial purified pili are by their nature not homogenous or recombinantly expressed. Claim 1 requires that the pilin protein be "*isolated and purified recombinantly-expressed pilin protein.*"

Furthermore, claims 1 states that "*said vaccine composition elicits a protective immune response in a human host.*" Rothbard immunizes rabbits with his pilin prepartions. There is no indication that his preparations would induce a protective immune response in a human host. Applicants find that this restriction requirement of 42 claims into 16 groups is excessive. The European counterpart was separated into 4 groups of claims under the same rules governing the PCT. Therefore, applicants respectfully request that this restriction requirement be reconsidered and that the claims of groups V, IX and XI

be considered with group I. In this case the examined group would consist of claims 1, 2, 7-9, and 15.

Applicant believes no additional fees are due with this statement. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 01-1425 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Respectfully submitted,

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